Security's Last Stand: Isolation
By Aubrey Mansfield

When discussing IT and network security, industry experts routinely point to climbing budgets, technology innovation and survey results that show security concerns atop the minds of CEOs, all as signs of the sector's strength. They fail to mention the dirty little secret of the security industry - to this point, network security has been a failed exercise.

Security solutions remain one step behind hackers, attackers, intruders and data thieves - a purely reactionary approach. Developments in security technology focus more on responding to the most recent threat or fixing the problems caused by the latest solutions than on preventing the next attack.

Part of the blame lies squarely on the shoulders of the vendors who shout fear, uncertainty and doubt (FUD) from the mountaintops and then swoop in with unverified performance claims and no auditing capability to validate that the product functions at all……………………………

The Security-Connectivity Spectrum

The primary factor contributing to the failure of security strategies lies in the conflict between security and connectivity. Organizations strive to maximize both security and connectivity, without realizing they are opposite sides of the same spectrum. …………………………………..

Isolate and Protect

To combat theft of information assets and prevent breaches of confidentiality, many companies and government organizations have been using or are establishing isolated networks that contain their most secure data, preventing both external and internal intrusions and eliminating the possibility of sensitive information leaving the organization.

A separated network is literally isolated from all other networks in an organization………………………………….

Maximizing Desktop Real Estate while Maintaining Security

Desktop real estate is a valuable commodity. Minimizing desktop devices such as extra monitors and keyboards conserves desktop space and reduces hardware costs…………………………………………………..

Using A Data Diode to Permit One-Way Data Transfer

A Data Diode is an effective method of creating a bridge between the secure network and other networks so that information can be transferred to the secure network. A data diode is a physical layer device that allows information to flow in one direction but prevents any information flow in the reverse direction…………………………………

Using the Keyboard Switch to Maximize Desktop Real Estate

Using the Interactive Link Keyboard Switch and Data Diode in conjunction will not only provide a one way data path from an internal network to a secure network, but also remove the requirement for a user to have two workstations on his or her desktop to access both networks. Both the Keyboard Switch and Data Diode have their security enforced at the physical layer
…………………………………………………………………………………………….

Isolation: A Modest Proposal?

Each day, the media around the world covers incidents of user abuse of networks, insider attacks, hacker exploits and data theft. The impact of these breaches ranges from the loss of customer confidence to regulatory fines to the complete failure of a business, all depending on the value of the data lost……………………….

Aubrey Mansfield is Senior Vice President of Tenix Datagate, Inc. (www.tenixdatagate.com). Mansfield has over 30 years experience in the federal and DoD markets, including 10 years of specific focus on information assurance, data security and logical authentication.